



Washington Weekly



13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF MICHIGAN

U.S. Congresswoman
**CAROLYN CHEEKS
KILPATRICK**

This E-Newsletter is a weekly summary of the events taking place in the United States Congress that affect the State of Michigan and primarily Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

Legislative Action From the Week of 3/10/2006

H. R. 4167 Establishing the National Uniformity for Food Act

H. R. 2829 Reauthorizing Office of National Drug Control Policy

H. Res. 681 Supporting National Engineers Week

H.R. 4192 Designating President Clinton's Birthplace as an Historic Site

H.R. 4472 Establishing the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act

H. R. 1053 Extending Normal Trade Relations to Ukraine

H. Res. 673 Supporting Democracy in Belarus

H.R. 3505 Establishing the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act

H.R. 32 Amending the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act

News You Can Use

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Offers Artistic Discovery Contest

This Month Is

National Kidney Month

Upcoming Town Hall Events

Kilpatrick Announces Medicare Drug Plan Town Hall April 1st
[View Announcement](#)

Helpful Resources

[Directory of Homeownership Assistance in the Detroit Area](#) *Printable booklet of homeownership resources.*

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the Week Ending 3/10/2006

H. R. 4167 Establishing the National Uniformity for Food Act

This bill bars states from imposing food safety labeling standards for food packaging, thereby leaving the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as the only agency that can set such standards. The measure allows states to petition the FDA within the 180-day grace period for a waiver to allow any labeling requirements that are already in place to remain in place. The bill allows the FDA to grant a waiver if a state's existing label requirement meets three criteria: that it protects "an important public interest" that would otherwise be unprotected, in the absence of the exemption; that the state requirement would not cause any food to be in violation of any applicable requirement or prohibition under federal law; and that the requirement would not "unduly" burden interstate commerce. This bill does not modify or affect any state product liability laws. It also does not prohibit states from continuing to establish, enforce, or create new requirements related to freshness dating, opened date labeling, grade labeling, a state inspection stamp, religious dietary labeling, organic or natural designation, returnable bottle labeling, unit pricing, or a statement of geographic origin. I voted against this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 283 to 139.

H. R. 2829 Reauthorizing Office of National Drug Control Policy

The bill reauthorizes for five years the office in the Executive Office of the President that has a prominent role in formulating U.S. policies to reduce the use of illicit drugs and to deal with the consequences of drug abuse. It authorizes close to \$300 million a year to assist state and local authorities to stop drug trafficking in high-intensity trafficking areas, and earmarks \$15 million a year to combat meth distribution in these areas. I supported this measure, which passed 399 to 5.

H. Res. 681 Supporting National Engineers Week

The National Society of Professional Engineers strives to increase interest in, and awareness of, the field of engineering through National Engineers Week. The President has designated Feb. 19 to 25, 2006, for this purpose. This week was chosen because President George Washington's birthday falls during that week and he was an engineer by training. This resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week and expresses the House's commitment to work with engineers to make sure their contributions are expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation. This resolution passed the House by a voice vote.

H.R. 4192 Designating President Clinton's Birthplace as an Historic Site

This bill designates the President William Jefferson Clinton birthplace home in Hope, Ark., as a National Historic Site and as part of the National Park System. The Clinton Birthplace Foundation, Inc. donates the property to the Interior Department. I supported this measure, which passed by a vote of 409 to 12.

H.R. 4472 Establishing the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act

This bill creates a national sex offender registry; increases penalties for sex crimes against children; increases penalties for the assault or murder of federal judges or court personnel, and allows federal judges and prosecutors to carry firearms in court. It also sets new federal penalties for gang-related violent crimes. This measure passed the House by a voice vote.

H. R. 1053 Extending Normal Trade Relations to Ukraine

This bill gives the President the authority to proclaim normal trade relations with Ukraine, i.e., extending nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of that country. The measure contains congressional "findings" that Ukraine allows its citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, free of any heavy tax on emigration; has made substantial progress toward the creation of democratic institutions and a free-market economy; and has committed itself to ensuring freedom of religion, to respect the rights of minorities, and to eliminating intolerance. The bill also finds that Ukraine has taken major steps toward global security by ratifying the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Weapons (START I) and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; is a member of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and is a peaceful state with established exemplary relations with all neighboring countries. I supported this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 417 to 2.

H. Res. 673 Supporting Democracy in Belarus

This resolution states that the House of Representatives looks forward to the development of cordial relations between the United States and Belarus and emphasizes that a pre-condition for the integration of Belarus into the western community of nations is its establishment of a genuinely democratic political system. The measure urges Belarus to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others to freely assemble, and to ensure the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the 2006 presidential election. The resolution urges Belarus to ensure unobstructed access by international election monitors and unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis. Finally, the measure encourages the international community to support democracy in Belarus and pledges support to the Belarusian people, to their commitment to a fully free and open democratic system, and to their creation of a prosperous free market economy. I voted for this resolution. It passed by a vote of 419 to 1.

H.R. 3505 Establishing the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act

This bill eases regulatory restrictions on banks, federal savings and loan associations, credit unions, and regulatory agencies. It also eases rules on banks opening branches across state lines, and allows banking regulators to examine healthy financial institutions less frequently. I supported this measure, which passed by a vote of 415 to 2.

H.R. 32 Amending the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act

This bill sets fines of up to \$2 million and a prison sentence of up to 10 years for anyone who intentionally sells or distributes counterfeit labels, patches, stickers, wrappers or other products marks, containers, documentation or packaging. Companies who traffic in counterfeit labels and packaging would be subject to a maximum fine of \$5 million for a first offense and \$15 million for a second offense. The measure provides that upon conviction, the court would order the forfeiture of any property derived, directly or indirectly, from the proceeds of the offense, as well as any property used in connection with the offense. The bill expands the criminal definition of "traffic" to include the transport, transfer, manufacture, import, export, of goods for private financial gain or commercial advantage; or possession of goods with intent to transport them. Finally, the bill provides that no criminal action could be brought against an individual or business that repackages genuine goods or services, such as combining individual items into gift sets, if there is no intent to deceive or cause confusion as to the authenticity of the products. This measure passed by a voice vote.

To read more about these measures, or any other legislation, please visit the Library of Congress' legislative information site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Medicare's New Prescription Drug Plans

Printable handout with important facts to help you understand the program.

Energy Saving

Brief compilation of tips and tricks to help your energy efficiency in both your home and on the road.

Contact Us

Email Congresswoman Kilpatrick

1610 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2261
(202) 225-5730 fax

1274 Library St, Ste 1-B
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-9004
(313) 965-9006 fax

3005 Biddle St., Room A
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 246-0780
(734) 246-1148 fax

HOME PAGE



News You Can Use

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Offers Artistic Discovery Contest

Applications for An Artistic Discovery, the Congressional Art Competition, are available in my district offices in Detroit and Wyandotte. This art competition provides high school students in Michigan's 13th district, which includes Ecorse, the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, Wyandotte, and more than half of Detroit, to showcase their creative talents. Winning artwork will be hung in the Cannon Tunnel on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Entries must be postmarked by April 7, 2006, and should be sent to the Artistic Discovery Selection Committee, 1274 Library Street, Suite 1B, Detroit, MI 48226.

March Is...

National Kidney Month

The mission of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is to prevent kidney disease and improve the quality of life for those living with it. More than 20 million Americans have kidney and urinary tract diseases. An estimated 90,000 people die from these diseases annually. About 200,000 Americans suffer from chronic kidney failure and need dialysis to stay alive. The number of people diagnosed with chronic kidney disease is expected to double by 2010.

About three million Americans have undiagnosed kidney and urinary tract diseases. Some of the warning signs include high blood pressure; blood or protein in the urine; more frequent, difficult, or painful urination; and swelling of hands and feet, particularly in children. To learn more about the symptoms, how to keep your kidney healthy, or about the foundation's programs, visit the NKFM website at www.nkfm.org.

By subscribing to Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick's e-mail newsletter, you are authorizing me to send regular e-mail updates from my office to your e-mail account. If you do not want to receive this e-mail, or if you have received this e-mail in error, please accept my apologies and click the link below and you will not be contacted again.